



ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES (EANGUS)

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

National Commission on the Future of the Army

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Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States

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CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JOHN HARRIS, USAF (RETIRED)

Chief Master Sergeant John Harris, USAF (Retired), is the President of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS). He was overwhelmingly elected by membership of the association in August 2014. He served as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller, supporting the 256th Infantry BDE, 20th Special Forces Group, OEF Coalition Forces, and multiple Enhanced Separate Brigades of the Army National Guard. He mobilized in support of OPERATION DESERT STORM and deployed in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. While serving as the State Command Chief Master Sergeant, the highest enlisted level of leadership in the Louisiana Air National Guard, Chief Harris represented the interests of the enlisted corps to The Adjutant General and served as an advisor to The Assistant Adjutant General for Air. During this time, he also served in the Louisiana National Guard Enlisted Association, the Counterdrug Task Force, the Louisiana Senior Executive Steering Committee, and was involved in fundraising efforts for the Louisiana National Guard Heroes Monument. Chief Harris holds a Master of Business Administration degree in Project Management from Grantham University. His numerous military decorations, including a Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal and the Louisiana Cross of Merit. He is a life member of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States and the Louisiana National Guard Enlisted Association.

DISCLOSURE OF FEDERAL GRANTS OR CONTRACTS

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) does not currently receive, nor has the association ever received, any federal money for grants or contracts. All of the Association's activities and services are accomplished completely free of any federal funding.

OPENING STATEMENT

Chairman General Ham, Vice Chairman Lamont and distinguished members of the National Commission on the Future of the Army, thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Chief Master Sergeant John Harris. I am the President of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS). On behalf 42,000 EANGUS members, 414,000 enlisted men and women of the Army and Air National Guard—roughly 90 percent of the National Guard force, their families and survivors, and National Guard retirees, we welcome this opportunity to submit testimony for the record regarding our views concerning the structure of the Army and growing interest in the future size and force mixture of the Army Active and Reserve Components.

EANGUS believes the National Guard is a major partner in the warfight and homeland defense, and must retain as much of its capability, both people and weapons systems, as resources and doctrine allow. Unparalleled in recent history, the country is endowed with seasoned National Guard combat veterans. The Guard brings civilian skill sets into the dynamic security environment as well as the involvement and commitment of the American people and communities. The Army needs the Guard, and the Guard needs the Army.

The Guard is ready to deploy and engage on any front. The Guard spans half the globe, from Maine and the Virgin Islands in the East, to the tropical island of Guam in the Western Pacific. The Guard regularly exercises in a variety of climates and mission sets, and is prepared to be utilized across the world. The Guard is able to increase or decrease manpower or resources as the country's needs dictate. The Guard has never turned down a mission request, and stands ready for the nation's call as it has since 1636. In 2012, Congress included a new section in Title 10 which allows reserve component members to be utilized by combatant commanders—to the best of the association's knowledge, this important section has yet to be utilized. Our members stand ready to mobilize and deploy—they want to be used in a manner in which they were trained. Real missions always trump being sidelined and idled. EANGUS believes the Army and the Defense Department should utilize the Guard in more proactive ways to sustain the combat experience and edge they currently possess.

The National Guard is located in over 3,100 locations across America in every zip code in America, to include the Western Pacific, the Arctic, and the Caribbean. Less than 25 percent of the Guard is full-time. The Guard's strength is in its citizen-Soldier, a model that has served the country well since the Massachusetts Bay colony. The Guard operates on a very small part of the overall Defense budget, about 5 percent overall, to provide depth and breadth to its parent Services. In fact, the Guard, on that 5 percent of the DOD budget, provides 21 percent of the strength of the Defense Department and 55 percent of the reserve component strength. EANGUS believes that Congress has a fundamental responsibility to steward the taxpayer's money, and to fund the government at levels that balance the budget but do not jeopardize our national security.

Our association believes our elected lawmakers have the ability to put partisan politics aside and provide a solution to the nation's economic crisis. We agree with former Chairman Admiral Mike Mullen that the economy is a national security risk. We believe Congress has a moral and patriotic imperative to solve sequestration and Budget Control Act (BCA) caps and produce a budget that supports the basic fundamentals of government beginning with a strong national defense. We believe that funding the government outside of regular order, using Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funds, is shadow accounting and passes along mountains of debt to those in elementary, middle school and high school

today. EANGUS members believes Congress should act, this year, a year without elections or posturing or rhetoric, with wisdom and thoughtful haste to resolve sequestration.

The association is concerned about the convoluted and costly federal acquisition system. Too many precious resources are spent on over-budget, over-scheduled deliverables. Coupled with Continuing Resolutions and new start delays, Services are constantly burdened with uncertainty. EANGUS is concerned with the sheer amount of supplies and equipment left in theater and allowed to be sold or given to allies while modernized equipment is short in our formations. National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA) funding, however, helps to outfit the Guard with certain items. Since the start of the Global War on Terror in 2003, Congress has appropriated \$8.58 billion in NGREA, with another \$1.5 billion in the proposed 2016 appropriations legislation. While much appreciated and put to good use, NGREA funding is not the end all for solving the equipment modernization problem. When it comes to equipment, those reserve component units designed for interchangeability with active component units must be outfitted with the exact same, modernized, up-to-date equipment to preclude extensive post-mobilization training. We should remember lessons from 2003 when Guard troops deployed with body armor designed in the Vietnam era to repel shotgun blasts. It is unconscionable to think that we would go back to those conditions. Interchangeability means Apache aircraft needs to remain in the Guard if the active Army is going to fly that aircraft. EANGUS believes that if it is good enough for the Army, it is good enough for the Guard.

In closing, the association strongly believes the Guard must retain its combat aviation capability, and that if Aviation Restructure Initiative (ARI) is to occur, one way to divide the aircraft is based on the percentage of combat formations in the Army and the Guard. If the Reserve components make up 54 percent of the Army team, 54 percent of the aircraft should be in the Reserve component. As an alternate proposal, if the entire fleet of Apaches is to be placed with the active component, the association believes that each State with an Apache flying mission should receive upgraded, UH-60M Blackhawk Helicopters on a one-for-one tradeoff. One thing we believe the Commission should consider is where Army Apache pilots will go when they depart active duty—no Reserve unit will have Apaches for them to affiliate and be retained. Therefore, the military will lose critical expertise.

This concludes my opening remarks today. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify, I look forward to answering any of your requests today and am happy to take questions for the record.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF THE ARMY RECOMMENDATIONS

Size and Mix of Force

Hundreds of thousands of National Guard members have heeded the call to serve in combat, many deployed multiple times. They have been uprooted from their families and their civilian employers or their secondary educational pursuits to answer the nation's call and put their own lives in physical jeopardy and high risk. The Army Guard makes up a little more than one-third of the Army's human resources and the Army Reserves make up another 20 percent. Reserve components represent 54 percent of the Total Force but only 8 percent of the Department of Defense budget. This represents an excellent value for a force that provides 60 percent of the Army's combat force, 54 percent of its combat support, and 68 percent of its combat service support. EANGUS believes the National Guard is a major player in the warfight and homeland defense, and must retain as much of its capability, both people and weapons systems, as resources and doctrine allow. Unparalleled in recent history, the Guard is endowed with seasoned combat veterans. The Guard brings civilian skill sets into the dynamic security environment as well as the involvement and commitment of the American people and communities. The Army needs the Guard, and the Guard needs the Army. The Guard is ready and resilient and deserves to be first-string players in the game. At the beginning of the Global War on Terror, theorists came up with an arbitrary 1:5 dwell ratio but lessons learned has taught us that the Guard should operate on a modified 1:3 dwell ratio. The Guard is able to dial up or back in manpower as the Army needs; they want the opportunity to be a valued part of the team.

Pacific Pivot Strategy

The Guard is ready to deploy and engage on any front. The Guard already spans half the globe, from Maine and the Virgin Islands in the East to the tropical island of Guam in the Western Pacific, where America's day begins. The Guard regularly exercises in a variety of climates and mission sets, both in combat train and humanitarian missions, and is prepared to be utilized across the globe. The Guard is able to dial up or down manpower and resources as the need dictates. The Guard has never turned down a mission request, and stands ready for the nation's call as it has since 1636. Many dignitaries, military commanders and generals, Members of Congress, leaders from many walks of life have visited with Guard members in combat conditions and, aside from their effluent praise, have openly said that they cannot tell a Guardsman from an active component Soldier. In addition to their combat experience and willingness to perform every mission, the Guard's State Partnership Program is so proven and effective that a shift to the Pacific will only enhance what the Guard already has in place.

Capacity for Mission Success

EANGUS is concerned with the sheer amount of supplies and equipment left in theater and allowed to be sold or given to allies while modernized equipment is short in our formations. The defense acquisition system is in need of modernization and our airframes and ground equipment need updating. The National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account funding helps to outfit the Guard with selected items, but dedicated procurement funding and patriotic industrial partners who are not profit driven are the solution to the modernization problem. When it comes to equipment, those reserve component

units designed for interchangeability with active component units must be outfitted with the exact same equipment to preclude extensive post-mobilization training and increased casualties due to unfamiliarity with modernized equipment. If the Reserve components make up 54 percent of the Army team, then why is 54 percent of the aircraft not in the Reserve component? With respect to the Army's Aviation Restructure Initiative (ARI), if the entire fleet of Apaches is to be placed with the active component, the association believes that each State with an Apache flying mission should receive UH-60M Blackhawks on a 1:1 basis.

In the end, EANGUS members are confident that this Commission and Members of the House and Senate will come down somewhere in the middle of this debate and the Army will not transfer all Apaches. We request that the Commission and Congress consider that all Apaches transferred out be replaced with the most updated UH-60M Blackhawks, helicopter for helicopter.

Managing Risk

The association is well aware that the Guard has been forced to manage resources and risk for decades. Our active component cousins have typically underfunded Guard accounts, prompting Congress to earmark or enter specific legislative language to allow funding to flow to the Guard. In addition, and due to the past practices of our cousins, some serious NGREA funding has flowed to the Guard over the past 15 years which has proven vital in equipping the Guard. For Fiscal 2016, Congress is considering \$1.5 billion in NGREA.

The Guard is located in over 3,100 locations across America, to include the Western Pacific, the Arctic, and the Caribbean. Less than 25 percent of the Guard is full-time—the Guard's strength is in its citizen-Soldier, a model that has served the country well since the Massachusetts Bay colony. The Guard operates on a very small part of the overall Defense budget to provide depth and breadth to its parent Services. EANGUS believes that Congress has a fundamental responsibility to steward the taxpayer's money, and to fund the government at levels that balance the budget but do not jeopardize our national security. Our association believes our elected lawmakers have the ability to put partisan politics and favoritism aside and provide a solution to the nation's economic crisis. We agree with former Chairman Admiral Mike Mullen that the economy is a national security risk. We believe Congress has a moral and patriotic imperative to solve sequestration and BCA caps and produce a budget that supports the basic fundamentals of government beginning with a strong national defense. The association believes that funding the government outside of regular order, to wit OCO, is shadow accounting and passes along mountains of debt to those in elementary, middle school and high school today. The time has come, this year, a year without elections or posturing or rhetoric, for Congress to act with wisdom and thoughtful haste to resolve this important issue.

Readiness

EANGUS is pleased that Congress has continued to fund the full-time support program. The full-time support program consists of Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) Soldiers, Dual Status Military Technicians, Non-Dual Status Military Technicians, and Active Duty Operational Support (ADOS) employees. These full-time support personnel provide a blanket of readiness and support between drill periods to keep

the Guard honed and ready for mobilization. Our anecdotal evidence suggests that the full-time support program is funded at less than 70 percent of requirements for AGRs and less than 65% for Military Technicians. Some armories and readiness centers have only one full-time support person to manage the workload, and during times of illness or vacation, leaving the armory or center unmanned. Our association believes that the full-time support program is bare bones, in some cases to the marrow, and needs to be increased to ensure readiness capability. ADOS Soldiers are temporary, on annual appropriations, and cannot be relied upon for long term success; however, their contribution cannot be minimized. Full-time support personnel requirements are determined by the National Guard Bureau's Manpower Division, and available resources are allocated to each State. The leadership in each State (e.g. TAG, Chief of Staff, HRO) then decide where to place those scarce resources based on their estimation of training, readiness and mission needs. AGR and Military Technicians are usually employed in their units of assignment, and should their unit be called up for deployment, they deploy with that unit. ADOS provide depth in places where AGR and Military Technicians are unavailable or under-resourced.